

ORIGIN OF THE NAME

The following is found in the book, IRISH FAMILIES, THEIR NAMES, ARMS AND ORIGINS by Dr. Edward MacLysaght at page 146:

“O’Flanagan: This surname is practically the same in both its Irish and anglicized forms, being in the former O’Flannagain, which is probably derived from the adjective “flann” meaning reddish or ruddy. It belongs to Connacht both by origin and location. Flanagan, with of course O’Flanagan, for this is one of those names with which the prefix is frequently retained, is numbered among the hundred commonest surnames in Ireland and has the sixty-ninth place on that list. The greatest number of these are found in Co. Roscommon and in the counties of the western seaboard – Mayo, Galway and Clare. They spring from one Flanagan, who was of the same stock as the royal O’Connors and his line held the hereditary post of steward to the Kings of Connacht. These who were seated between Mantau and Elphin, represent the main O’Flanagan sept. There were also minor septs of the same name in other parts of the country which were still represented in the seventeenth century; of Toorah in northwest Fermanagh and again of the barony of Ballyrit in Offaly. Some descendents of these are still to be found in both those areas.”

CLANS AND FAMILIES OF IRELAND

By: John Grenham, 2003, states as follows:

“In Irish the surname is O’Flannagain, a diminutive of *flann*, a personal name which was very popular in early Ireland, and means ‘red’ or ‘ruddy’. Perhaps because of this popularity, the surname arose separately in a number of distinct locations, including counties Roscommon, Fermanagh, Monaghan and Offaly. Of these, the most important families historically were those of Roscommon and Fermanagh. In a formal location they were all associated with the royal O’Connors, traditionally deriving from the same stock, and supplying stewards to the royal household. In Fermanagh they were rulers of a large territory covering the west of Lower Lough Erne, and based at Ballyflanagan, now the townland of Aghamore in Magheraboy Parish. Today the surname is found widely distributed throughout Ireland, though the largest concentration remains in the areas of their original homelands, southwest Ulster and north Connacht.

The arms of the family displayed the royal oak, symbol of the O’Connors, proclaiming their long association with this family, though the tree does not cover the whole shield, a significant difference.

The motto displayed under the crest is ‘Certavi et vici’ (I have fought and conquered).”